

ALLEN BIAGGI, Administrator

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TDD 687-4678

Administration  
Facsimile 687-5856

Water Pollution Control  
Facsimile 687-4684

Mining Regulations & Reclamation  
Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada  
KENNY C. GUINN  
*Governor*



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Waste Management  
Corrective Actions  
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138  
Carson City, Nevada 89706

## Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Hollister Development Block Project**, a small-scale mining facility in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.410, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV2003107** is:

Hecla Ventures Corporation  
Hollister Development Block Project  
P.O. Box 2610  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89446

The facility, known as the Hollister Development Block Project, is located within Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 21, 28, and 33, Township 37 North, Range 48 East, and Sections 32 and 33, Township 38 North, Range 48 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 46 air-miles northwest of the city of Elko, in northwest Elko County, Nevada.

The project is an underground exploration program designed to determine the economic viability of the mineral resource. A decline will be driven to access the mineralized vein and develop underground exploration drilling stations. Drifts and vertical raises developed along the vein will be used to determine the continuity of mineralization, to evaluate proposed mining methods, and to obtain a 20,000 to 30,000 ton bulk sample that will be evaluated off site. Ancillary components will include an engineered waste rock and bulk sample storage facility with a lined fluid collection system, synthetic-lined de-silting and recycled water ponds, a storm water basin, and interconnected pumps, sumps and pipelines. Surface support facilities will include an administration building and miners' dry, a maintenance shop, and a synthetic-lined fuel storage facility. No processing components will be constructed on the site at this time. The facility will be

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located within an existing mine pit and no new surface disturbance will be created. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of this notice (**01 December 2003**) to:

Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
Capitol Complex  
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The draft Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw at (775) 687-9409, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.html>